



**Town Recreational Shellfish Crier**  
**March 31, 2022**

**1. Wellfleet Shellfish Department Annual Report**

We had a very busy year in 2021. We captured the highlights in our Annual Report and wanted to share our efforts with you. A condensed version will appear in the 2021 Annual Town Report as well. See full report [here](#). We also post our monthly reports there, although we are behind on 2022, but will be done soon, so keep checking back!

**2. Horseshoe Crab fishery's lunar closures for 2022**

People often ask us questions about what people are doing on the beaches at night with flashlights during the spring. There are Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary volunteers who count horseshoe crabs when they come onto beaches to spawn as part of population studies. There is also a state horseshoe crab fishery that operates in the springtime, but it is not allowed during the full and new moons. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries has just released its Horseshoe Crab fishery's lunar closures for 2022: "To promote the conservation of horseshoe crabs, the commercial horseshoe crab fishery is subject to five-day lunar spawning closures during the springtime. These closures occur for five-day periods coinciding with each new and full moon occurring between April 16 and June 30. Closure periods begin at 12:00 AM (midnight) two days prior to each new or full moon and end at 11:59 PM two-days after each new or full moon. The exact closures for 2022 are in this [calendar](#)." We wanted to share this with you so you are in the know!

**3. Reminder to report your catches**

If you don't see someone from the Shellfish Department at the end of your harvest, please email [Jordan.Halloran@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:Jordan.Halloran@wellfleet-ma.gov) with your catch report. Be sure to include the amount harvested and the location and date of your harvest. **This helps us give important feedback to the Selectboard on the value of the recreational shellfishery and provides us with statistics for grant application opportunities.** Thank you!

**4. Measuring rings distributed to recreational shellfishing areas**

The Shellfish Department has placed three-inch measuring rings at the three entrances to Indian Neck, and the Old Pier entrance to Chipman's Cove. Use these free measurement tools to make sure your oysters are legal size. Many thanks to our volunteer recreational shellfishermen who make these for us!

Contact Nancy at [nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov) or 508-349-0325 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve shellfishing. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta  
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch  
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla / Jordan Halloran  
Deputy Shellfish Constables

